

NOV 08 2006

Application No. 10/028,574
Amdt. Dated: September 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated: August 8, 2006
Customer No.: 24737

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A system for extending unattended control capabilities for a video receiver comprising:

a shell for executing scripts controlling demodulation of broadcast programming;
and

a memory containing at least one script including a sequence of commands for demodulating selected broadcast programming, wherein the at least one script is executable by the shell to select broadcast programming for demodulation from among one or more concurrently airing programs each matching at least one of a plurality of user-specified descriptive criteria, wherein said at least one script employs associated previously-defined user priorities or conditions to select between conflicting matches or routing options.

2. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at least one script identifies the selected broadcast programming by at least one of:

one or more channels on which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or more time periods during which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast;

a title of the selected broadcast programming; and

keywords describing the selected broadcast programming.

3. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause a sequence of programs broadcast during separate contiguous time periods on different channels to be

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demodulated and displayed by the video receiver.

4. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device.

5. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 4 wherein the at least one script, prior to causing the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device, checks for previous demodulation and transmission of the selected broadcast programming to the recording device, wherein execution of the at least one script is terminated if the selected broadcast programming was previously demodulated and transmitted to the recording device.

6. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at least one script is received by the video receiver together with a broadcast programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

7. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the at least one script is received by the video receiver from an external source separate from a broadcast programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

8. (Original) A video receiver comprising:

an input for receiving broadcast programming; and

a scripting system for extending unattended control capabilities for the video receiver, the scripting system comprising:

a shell for executing scripts controlling demodulation of broadcast programming; and

a memory containing at least one script including a sequence of commands for demodulating selected broadcast programming, wherein the at least one script is executable by the shell to select broadcast programming for

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demodulation from among one or more concurrently airing programs each matching at least one of a plurality of user-specified descriptive criteria, wherein said at least one script employs associated previously-defined user priorities or conditions to select between conflicting matches or routing options.

9. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8 wherein the at least one script identifies the selected broadcast programming by one of:

one or more channels on which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or more time periods during which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast;

a title of the selected broadcast programming; and

keywords describing the selected broadcast programming.

10. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause a sequence of programs broadcast during separate contiguous time periods on different channels to be demodulated and displayed by the video receiver.

11. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8 wherein the at least one script, when executed by the shell, controls operation of the video receiver to cause the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device.

12. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 11 wherein the at least one script, prior to causing the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device, checks for previous demodulation and transmission of the selected broadcast programming to the recording device, wherein execution of the at least one script is terminated if the selected broadcast programming was previously demodulated and transmitted to the recording device.

13. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8 wherein the at least one script is received by the video receiver via the input together with a broadcast

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programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

14. (Original) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8 wherein the at least one script is received by the video receiver from an external source separate from a broadcast programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

15. (Original) A method for extending unattended control capabilities for a video receiver comprising:

executing, using a shell within the video receiver, scripts controlling demodulation of broadcast programming; and

storing, within a memory in the video receiver, at least one script including a sequence of commands for demodulating selected broadcast programming, wherein the at least one script is executable by the shell to select broadcast programming for demodulation from among one or more concurrently airing programs each matching at least one of a plurality of user-specified descriptive criteria, wherein said at least one script employs associated previously-defined user priorities or conditions to select between conflicting matches or routing options.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising:

identifying the selected broadcast programming within the at least one script by one of:

one or more channels on which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast and one or more time periods during which the selected broadcast programming is to be broadcast;

a title of the selected broadcast programming; and

keywords describing the selected broadcast programming.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising:

executing the at least one script utilizing the shell to control operation of the video

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receiver and cause a sequence of programs broadcast during separate contiguous time periods on different channels to be demodulated and displayed by the video receiver.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising:

executing the at least one script utilizing the shell to control operation of the video receiver and cause the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 18 further comprising:

prior to causing the selected broadcast programming to be demodulated and transmitted to a recording device, checking for previous demodulation and transmission of the selected broadcast programming to the recording device, wherein execution of the at least one script is terminated if the selected broadcast programming was previously demodulated and transmitted to the recording device.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising:

receiving the at least one script at an input to the video receiver together with a broadcast programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

21. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising:

receiving the at least one script at an input to the video receiver from an external source separate from a broadcast programming stream including the selected broadcast programming.

22. (Previously presented) A datastream stored on computer readable medium for use with a video receiver wherein the datastream includes one or more computer readable fields for a broadcast programming stream including selected broadcast programming and at least one script including a sequence of commands for causing the video receiver to demodulate the selected broadcast programming for display or recording, wherein the at least one script is executable by a shell running within the video receiver.

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23. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shell executes the script that is stored in the memory when a user manually initiates execution of the script by selecting a script execute option.
24. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shell automatically periodically executes the script to check future programming.
25. (New) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the executing script selects the broadcast programming based on an identity of a viewer.
26. (New) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 8, wherein the scripting system further includes a script manager that schedules the script for execution.
27. (New) The video receiver as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the script includes instructions for selectively skipping commercials while recording the selected broadcast programming.
28. (New) The video receiver as set forth in claim 1, wherein the script ranks alternative programs for display or recording by automatically extrapolating from a viewing history of the subscriber's recently viewed programs.
29. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 15, further including using the executing script for controlling tradeoffs between recording time, picture quality, and available storage space.
30. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein the executing script records a program designated to be displayed instead of displaying the program when the user is concurrently viewing a different program.
31. (New) The datastream as set forth in claim 22, wherein the shell enters an idle state when a script end time is reached and remains in the idle state until another script is selected for execution.